JS 44 (Rev. 09/11)

## **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil coversheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Tuan Samahon				DEFENDANTS Federal Bureau of Investigation &				
				Department of Justice				
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Montgomery County				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Washington, DC				
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF				EL OCATION OF
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(c) Attorneys (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Numb	er)		Attorneys (If Known)				
Beth Lyon, EsqPA Bar	# 87230, Villanova Sc	hool of Law-FLAC	Clinic,	U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania				
299 N. Spring Mill Road,	Villanova, PA 19085-	1516, (610) 519-30	06	,				
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X"	in One Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OI (For Diversity Cases On		AL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in and One Box fo	
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)			en of This State	PTF DEF	Incorporated or Pri of Business In This	incipal Place	PTF DEF
✓ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizens)	hip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State	<b>□</b> 2	Incorporated and F of Business In A		G 5 G 5
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☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	☐ 360 Other Personal	Property Damage		1 Family and Medical	□ 865 RSI (	405(g))	893 Environ	mental Matters n of Information
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Differ description of c	ause: ilure to release age	ncy doc	ument				
VII. REQUESTED IN		IS A CLASS ACTION		EMAND S	C	HECK YES only	if demanded in	complaint:
COMPLAINT:	UNDER F.R.C.P	. 23			Л	URY DEMAND:	☐ Yes	ØX No
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKE	T NUMBER		
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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		•	(	)		_		
RECEIPT # AM	IOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE	<u> </u>	MAG. JUD	<b>JGE</b>	

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## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

Address of Plaintiff: Tuan Samahon, 299 N. Spring Mill Road, V	'illanova, PA 19085-1516	)		
Address of Defendant: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 935 Pennsylvania	a Ave NW, Washington, D.C.	20535-0001		
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Washington, D.C.				
(Use Reverse Side For	Additional Space)			
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation	and any publicly held corporation owni	ng 10% or more of its stock?		
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a	a)) Yes□	No <b>⊠</b>		
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes□	No⊠		
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:				
Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:			
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:				
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one	year previously terminated action in this	court?		
	Yes□			
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior action in this court?	suit pending or within one year previou	siy terminated		
	Yes□	No⊠		
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier				
terminated action in this court?	Yes□	Nº <b>⋈</b>		
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rigi	hts case filed by the same individual?			
	Yes□	No⊠		
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)	<u> </u>			
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Case	es:		
1.   Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. □ Insurance Contract	and Other Contracts		
2. □ FELA	2.   Airplane Personal I	njury		
3.   Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. □ Assault, Defamation	1		
4. □ Antitrust	4. □ Marine Personal Inj	ury		
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8.   Habeas Corpus	8. □ Products Liability — Asbestos			
9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity			
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)			
11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify) F.O.I.A.				
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ARBITRATION CERT  (Check Appropriate C				
I, Beth Lyon, Esq. , counsel of record do hereby certi	ify:			
☐ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;	belief, the damages recoverable in this	civil action case exceed the sum of		
M Relief other than monetary damages is sought				
Med to	DAT	) # 07000		
DATE: 8/21/2012 Attorney-at-Law		Bar # 87230 prney I.D.#		
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if the		·		
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I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or except as noted above.	within one year previously terminate	e action in this court		
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DATE: 8/21/2012 Attorney-at-Law	·	Bar # 87230 ney I.D.#		
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CIV. 609 (5/2012)

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

## CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

TUAN SAMAHON

CIVIL ACTION

 $\mathbf{v}$ 

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION & DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NO.

E-Mail Address

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

**FAX Number** 

a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.						
b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.						
c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.						
d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.						
commonly referred to	Cases that do not fall into tracks (     as complex and that need special o     se side of this form for a detailed expectation.	r intense management by	( )			
(f) Standard Managemen	nt – Cases that do not fall into any or	ne of the other tracks.	(X)			
August 21, 2012 <b>Dat</b> e	Beth Lyon, Esq. Beth Lyn. Attorney-at-law	Tuan Samahon Attorney for				
(610) 519-3006	(610) 519-5173	flac@law villanova edu				

(Civ. 660) 10/02

Telephone

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

TUAN SAMAHON	_
c/o Villanova Law School 299 N. Spring Mill Rd.	)
Villanova, PA 19085-1516	)
Plaintiff,	)
v.	)
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	) Civil Action
935 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, D.C. 20535-0001	) ) )
AND	) )
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	)
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, D.C. 20530-0001	) ) )
Defendants.	) ) )

## **COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Professor Tuan Samahon brings this Complaint under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552 et seq., to compel the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to disclose agency records that they improperly withheld. In support of this Complaint, Professor Samahon alleges the following:

#### **PARTIES**

- 1. Plaintiff Tuan Samahon is a citizen of the United States and a resident of the judicial district embraced by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He is a tenured professor of law at Villanova Law School, Villanova, PA where he teaches and researches in the fields of constitutional law and federal courts. This litigation arises out of his legal historical research into Associate Justice Abe Fortas's resignation from the U.S. Supreme Court in 1969 and the causes for his untimely resignation, which include the apparent abuse of power by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and his associates. This case arises out of Professor Samahon's FOIA request for a 46-year-old document concerning the FBI's questionable encounter with Fortas in October 1966 (FOIA Request No. 1141747).
- 2. Defendants DOI and FBI are executive agencies of the U.S. government.

### **IURISDICTION**

- 3. This Court has both subject matter and personal jurisdiction over this matter. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).
- 4. This Court also has jurisdiction over this subject matter pursuant to federal question jurisdiction. 28 U.S.C. § 1331. This Complaint arises under the laws of the United States and seeks to compel Defendants to produce agency records improperly withheld from Professor Samahon.

#### **VENUE**

5. The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania is a proper venue for this civil action pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B). Plaintiff resides in Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, PA within this judicial district.

## **EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

- 6. Professor Samahon exhausted his administrative remedies. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(C)(i). In January 2010, he filed a FOIA request for an unredacted version of an FBI memorandum ("the DeLoach Memorandum").
- 7. The DeLoach Memorandum, dated October 25, 1966, from Deputy Director Cartha D. DeLoach to Associate Director Clyde Tolson concerns the former's ex parte conversation with Justice Fortas on the subject of the <u>Black v. United States</u> case ("RE: CONVERSATION WITH JUSTICE FORTAS [redacted] MATTER; BLACK CASE.").

- 8. Defendants did release a version of the DeLoach Memorandum, but redacted two fifteen-character segments. Defendants asserted a FOIA exemption under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), and alternatively under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C), over these two identical-length redactions to the DeLoach Memorandum.
- 9. Professor Samahon appealed this partial administrative denial to the Office of Information Policy, but Defendant DOJ denied his appeal on August 31, 2010 (Appeal No. 2010-2191).
- 10. During summer 2011, Professor Samahon mediated with the FBI under the auspices of the National Archives and Records Administration's Office of Government Information Services (OGIS Case No. 2011-00277). Ultimately, the FBI refused to release the two redactions but did state that the redactions were the name of a person. The mediator further conveyed that the FBI had said it "did not need to take any additional steps to verify [whether the individual redacted was still alive] because the fact was immediately known without consulting any other source."

## **TIMELY COMMENCEMENT OF CIVIL ACTION**

11. Professor Samahon timely commenced this civil action within the six-year statute of limitations. 28 U.S.C. § 2401(a).

## **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

- 12. This litigation results from Defendants' failure to release a 15-character redaction from an archived FBI document with potentially great historical significance.
- 13. In October 1966, the Supreme Court of the United States reheard the case of Black v. United States, 385 U.S. 26 (1966), which concerned FBI agents' use of electronic surveillance.
- 14. According to the DeLoach Memorandum, FBI Deputy Director Cartha DeLoach approached Justice Fortas to inquire *ex parte* about the Court's confidential deliberations in the pending case.
- 15. Justice Fortas was then a sitting Supreme Court justice who had moreover recused himself from participation in <u>Black v. United States</u>, 385 U.S. 26, 29 (1966).
- 16. Nonetheless, Justice Fortas complied with DeLoach's inquiry and leaked the Court's deliberations as reported in the DeLoach Memorandum.

- 17. DeLoach claims in his addendum to the DeLoach Memorandum that "Justice Fortas did not in any manner give me any information to which I was not entitled. *He did not violate ethics in any manner.*" (emphasis added).
- 18. In 1995, however, DeLoach published a memoir in which he discusses the DeLoach Memorandum, which he also authored. DeLoach explicitly contradicts the DeLoach Memorandum addendum's claim by stating that "[o]f course Fortas's involvement in [leaking information about Black v. United States] was blatantly unethical." Cartha DeLoach, Hoover's FBI: The Inside Story by Hoover's Trusted Lieutenant 58 (1995) (emphasis added).
- 19. Further, DeLoach mentions that he and Fortas referenced prior discussions of "delicate matters" previously discussed by the two *immediately prior to the improper conversation about the Black case*. Id. at 54.
- 20. According to the DeLoach Memorandum, Fortas unethically complied with the DeLoach request. The paragraphs describing Fortas's ethical breach immediately follow a partially redacted conversation. Fortas "express[ed] appreciation for the information the Director had [DeLoach] furnish him" and "agreed with the Director that no further action need be taken at this time." The nature of the information shared is redacted in the DeLoach Memorandum.
- 21. On another occasion less than a year later, DeLoach met with Justice Fortas and repeated a very similar formulation in another memorandum to Clyde Tolson that information being shared with Fortas was "[p]ursuant to the Director's instructions" and that "the FBI was taking no further action." In that later instance, the released FBI documents reveal that DeLoach had shared the allegation that Justice Fortas had "balled" with a male prostitute. DeLoach again reported Fortas to have "expressed great appreciation for having been provided" with the information.
- 22. Here, the redacted reference in the DeLoach Memorandum does not appear in isolation, but beside an ostensible "request" for confidential information about a pending Supreme Court case concerning the FBI. The DeLoach Memorandum associates temporally the disclosure of redacted information in the first paragraph with a "request" for illicit information in the following paragraphs. This request may indicate an attempt at leveraging a vulnerable Justice Fortas to secure his compliance with a Hoover "request."
- 23. DeLoach spoke with influential high-ranking federal government officials at the direction of Director J. Edgar Hoover on several documented occasions. Often he shared personal information about them that would be embarrassing, if disclosed.
- 24. Congress held hearings regarding this intimidation in 1975. Retired FBI Special Agent Arthur Murtagh testified under oath before the U.S. House of Representatives that DeLoach bragged before a large group of special agents that this modus operandi was a calculated effort to keep public officials compliant with

Director Hoover's requests. <u>See</u> U.S. Intelligence Agencies and Activities: Domestic Intelligence Programs, Hearings Before the Select Committee on Intelligence, U.S. House of Representatives, 94th Cong. 1st Sess. 1067-68 (Nov. 18, 1075) ("The other night we picked up a situation where this Senator was seen drunk, in a hit-and-run accident, and some good-looking broad was with him.... We got the information, reported it in memorandum...[and] [b]y noon the next day the good Senator was aware that we had the information and we never had any trouble with him on appropriations since.").

- 25. These types of requests followed a formula wherein it was indicated that DeLoach was speaking with the individual at the Director's instructions. He would tell the targeted official "no further action need be taken."
- 26. The FBI redacted the 46-year-old document in the subject line and in the first paragraph. The mono-spaced Times Roman font indicates that these two redactions are each 15-characters long.
- 27. The FBI asserts (b)(6) and (b)(7)(C) exemptions over the redactions, thereby revealing they obscure a name. Likely, the same-length redactions hide the same name, occurring twice, and not any other additional information.
- 28. During the OGIS mediation, the Deputy Director of OGIS emailed that the "FBI did not need to verify that the individual or individuals whose name/names were redacted in the document were alive because that fact was immediately known without reference to any other source."
- 29. Moreover, the FBI had previously told Professor Samahon that the redacted materials were names, but not any of the following deceased persons for whom Professor Samahon had provided obituaries, to wit, Carolyn Eugenia Agger (Fortas), Manuel F. Cohen, Abe Fortas, Milton Freeman, Elkin Gerbert, Lyndon Johnson, Norman Ostrow, Alex Rittmaster, or Louis Wolfson.
- 30. Upon information and belief, there is no medical record information hidden by the 15-character redaction in the DeLoach Memorandum.
- 31. Upon information and belief, there is no personnel file information hidden by the 15-character redaction in the DeLoach Memorandum.
- 32. Upon information and belief, the information hidden by the 15-character redaction in the DeLoach Memorandum is neither "similar" to that information in a medical record nor "similar" to that information in a personnel file.
- 33. In December 1989, the FBI previously disclosed the DeLoach Memorandum to author Alexander Charns and scholar Athan Theoharis pursuant to their FOIA requests and subsequent litigation. In their cases, the FBI dithered for years before turning over redacted copies of the documents. The FBI claimed exemption from

disclosure under (b)(7)(C), but did *not* claim any exemption under (b)(6). Charns did not seek release of the deleted materials.

34. Except for Justice Fortas, no other Supreme Court justice to date has resigned under duress arising from alleged ethical lapses. Therefore, this episode is of very great significance and instructional value for the public, including judges, lawyers, historians, law professors, and law students in securing this Country's commitment to the rule of law.

## **CLAIM ONE—VIOLATION OF FOIA**

- 35. Professor Samahon repeats paragraphs 1 through 34 and incorporates them by reference.
- 36. He has a statutory right to access the agency records he requested under FOIA. Defendants' failure to disclose the requested materials violates FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552 et seq.
- 37. Defendants have no lawful basis for withholding the requested records under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) or (b)(7)(C).
- 38. Defendants responded to Professor Samahon's FOIA request by simply claiming that the documents contained exempt materials. They, however, did not adequately justify and identify the reasons for concluding the asserted exemptions were applicable to the withheld information.
- 39. Defendants are irreparably harming Professor Samahon by failing to disclose the requested material and will continue to irreparably harm him unless the Court compels the agencies to conform to the FOIA statute.

## **CLAIM TWO—VIOLATION OF ADMINSTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT**

- 40. Professor Samahon repeats paragraphs 1 through 34 and incorporates them by reference.
- 41. Defendants' failure to disclose the redacted materials to Professor Samahon constitute agency action unlawfully withheld and unreasonably delayed, in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act. This failure is arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, not in accordance with the law, short of statutory right, without observance of procedure required by law, and unwarranted by the facts. 5 U.S.C. §§ 701-06.

## **REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

Professor Samahon requests the following relief against Defendants:

- 1. A judgment determining or declaring that Defendants' failure to provide him with the requested document was unlawful;
- 2. Injunctive relief requiring Defendants to promptly provide him with the release of the redactions on the document;
- 3. All attorney's fees and costs incurred by him in connection with this proceeding as provided by 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(E); and
- 4. Any and all other and further relief that this Court may deem appropriate.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Lyon, Esq., Counsel for Plaintiff PA Bar No. 87230

Professor of Law Villanova Law School 299 North Spring Mill Rd. Villanova, PA 19085-1516 610-519-7126 610-519-5173 (fax)

CHESOLIL ED TO COLUMNIA CONTROL

Mr. De Lu

Mr. Casper.

Mr. Callanga

Mr. Conrad.

Mr. Galeil Mr. Sa an

Mr. Trotter. Tele. noom.

Miss Echmes

Miss Gancy

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10/25/66

MR. TOLSON:

RE: CONVERSATION WITH JUSTICE FORTAS - MATTER;

BLACK CASE

For record purposes, Justice Fortas called at 10:30 this morning to express appreciation for the information the Director had me furnish him concerning the matter. Justice Fortas advised he agreed with the Director that no further action need be taken at this time. He stated he would get in touch with us in the eyent further inquiries should be made.

While talking with Justice Fortas, I told him that perhaps he might consider the question I was about to ask a little off base; however, we were somewhat concerned about the Black case. I asked him if he knew when a decision would be handed down. He replied that there would be a decision probably on Monday a week (11/7/66). I asked him if we should prepare for the court was considering issuing a sweeping proclamation denouncing the use of electronic devices. He told me the court's thinking had changed somewhat concerning this matter.

I asked him what he meant. He stated the court's decision would not be definitive. I asked him what he meant by that. He stated the court actually felt that the Black case and its various problems (meaning them microphone) should not be handled at Supreme Court level. I thanked the Justice for his information. It would seem that Justice Fortas undoubtedly meant that the Black case was to be remanded to the lower court.

Pursuant to the Director's instructions, we are checking immediately to find out the identity of the judgo who handled this matter in the lower court. A memorandum will be sent through on him just as soon as his identity of is ascertained. 62-12114

CDD: CSA

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NOT RECORDED

) 6 OCT 31 1966,

C. D. Deboach.

cc/Mr. DeLoach

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## ADDEŇDUM

July 24, 1967

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_ Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_ Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_ Mr. Wick \_\_ Mr. Casper \_\_\_ Mr. Callahan \_\_\_

Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_ Mr. Gale \_\_\_

Mr. Rosen \_

MR. TOLSON:

Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_ Pursuant to the Director's instructions, I saw Mr. Tavel \_ Justice Fortas at his home at 5:10 p.m. on 7/24/67. Mr. Trotter \_\_\_ told him we had received an allegation from a source of Tele. Room\_ information reflecting participation in homosexual Miss Holmes activities on his part. I stated that the Director Miss Gandy 1 wanted this matter discreetly and informally brought to his attention so that he would be aware of such an allega-I mentioned that the FBI was taking no further action in connection with this matter and that the fact that the Director was making this available to him was strictly for his own personal protection and knowledge.

Justice Fortas was handed the attached memorandum so that he could read it personally. After reading this memorandum, he told me that the charges were ridiculous and absolutely false. He stated he had never committed a homosexual act in his life and while he might be properly accused of normal sexual relations while a young man and during his married life, he most certainly had never committed homosexual acts at any time.

With respect to the arrest record of one William Norris Bartlett, who has been arrested on three different occasions by the Metropolitan Police for homosexual activity, Justice Fortas told me he wasn't surprised to learn of this inasmuch as he and the other partners of his former law firm always felt a little suspicious toward Bartlett. Bartlett is the office manager of this law firm and has served in this capacity for the past five years. He supervises the work of approximately 50 female employees. Justice Fortas stated that he and Attorneys Porter and Arnold, in the past, have noted that Bartlett seems to be somewhat effeminate and that he never tried to date the girls in the office. While not making any commitment, Justice Fortas stated that Bartlett's arrest record could certainly prove most embarrassing to the law firm and that something would have to be done about the situation.

Justice Fortas expressed great appreciation for having been provided with the above facts. He asked that his thanks be extended to the Director for having handled the matter in this manner. There followed a brief discussion concerning the racial situation in Detroit inasmuch as Justice Fortas has been at the White House all day at the President's request, working on this matter.

Respectfully,

C. D. DeLOACH